

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1710

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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PA

SUBJECT: CONGRESS CALLED INTO SPECIAL SESSION TO CONSIDER TEXACO
CONCESSION

REF: ASUNCION A-1, 1974

1. BY DECREE SIGNED JANUARY 9, 1974, PRESIDENT STROESSNER HAS
CONVOKED BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS FOR A SPECIAL SESSION TO CONSIDER
THE CONTRACT CONCESSION WITH TEXACO PARAGUAY, INC., FOR PETROLEUM
PROSPECTING, EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION IN THE NORTHEASTERN
SECTOR OF THE CHACO.

2. ALTHOUGH THE CONTRACT GRANTING TEXACO THE CONCESSION WAS SIGNED
ON DECEMBER 29, TEXACO OFFICIALS HAD INDICATED ALL ALONG THAT
THEY WOULD NOT BEGIN ANY ACTIVITIES UNTIL THE CONTRACT HAD
BEEN APPROVED BY BOTH HOUSES OF THE PARAGUAYAN CONGRESS.
TEXACO ADOPTED THIS POSITION DESPITE THE FACT THAT LEGALLY
THEY COULD HAVE COMMENCED OPERATIONS, BECAUSE THEY WISHED
TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS WHICH MIGHT ARISE IN THE
COURSE OF CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF THE CONTRACT.

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3. COMMENT: SOURCES IN BOTH GOP AND TEXACO PARAGUAY HAVE INDICATED

THAT THEY EXPECT NO DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING CONGRESSIONAL
APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT. THE EXTRAORDINARY PROCEDURE OF
CALLING CONGRESS (WHICH WOULD NOT NORMALLY RECONVENE UNTIL
APRIL) INTO SPECIAL SESSION IS A REFLECTION OF THE GOP'S
DESIRE TO HAVE EXPLORATION WORK BEGUN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND
WAS THEREFORE NECESSARY BECAUSE TEXACO WAS UNWILLING TO BEGIN
WORK WITHOUT FULL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.
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